

Snapshots of America's Families II: Data by State

Definitions of Indicators

Family Economic Well-Being

Low-income	Family income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold during the year prior to the survey interview. In 1998 this amounted to approximately \$33,000 for a family of two parents and two children.
Employment	Adults (age 25-54) employed full-time or part-time at the time of the survey interview.
Worries about or difficulties affording food	Adults' (age 18-64) experience with at least one of the following during the 12 months prior to the survey interview: i) worries that food would run out before they got money to buy more ii) food they bought did run out iii) one or more adults in the family ate less or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food.
Problems paying rent, mortgage, or utilities	Adults' (age 18-64) inability to pay mortgage, rent, or utility bills at any time during the 12 months prior to the survey interview.

Health Insurance Coverage, Access, and Health Status of Children and Nonelderly Adults

Employer-sponsored insurance	Health insurance coverage received at the time of the survey interview directly from a current or former employer or union, coverage received as dependents, coverage received under the Consolidated Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 [COBRA], and coverage received under the CHAMPUS, Veterans Affairs [VA], or other military program.
Medicaid/State coverage	Health insurance coverage received at the time of the survey interview through the Medicaid program or through state-specific programs.
Medicaid/SCHIP/State coverage	Health insurance coverage received at the time of the survey interview through the Medicaid program, through state-specific programs, or through separate State Children's Health Insurance programs (SCHIP).
Other coverage	Health insurance coverage received at the time of the survey interview through Medicare, through privately purchased coverage that is not obtained through an employer or union, and through coverage that cannot be definitively classified as employer, private, Medicare, Medicaid, State, or CHAMPUS.
Uninsured	People are classified as being uninsured if they report no type of health insurance coverage at the time of the survey or if they report coverage under the Indian Health Service program. Rather than defining uninsurance as a residual, the NSAF confirmed uninsurance with a question that verified whether people who appeared not to have coverage were, in fact, uninsured.
Usual source of health care	Adults and children whose parents were classified as having no usual source of care if they did not have a regular place or provider of health care. Those who reported that they or their children went to a hospital emergency room when they needed health services were also defined as having no usual source of care.
Lack of confidence in the ability to get needed care	Adults and children whose parents were classified as not having confidence in their ability to get needed care for themselves or their children if they stated that they were "not confident at all" or "not too confident" that they could get medical care when needed.

Fair or poor health	Adults' classification of themselves, their spouse/partners, or their children as generally being in fair or poor health.
Children's Behavior and Well-Being	
High engagement in school	Parents of children age 6-17 were asked to describe whether their child cares about doing well in school, only works on schoolwork when forced to, does just enough schoolwork to get by, and always does homework. The response categories were all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, or none of the time. Answers were summed to create scale scores ranging from 4 to 16. A score greater than or equal to 15 indicated high engagement in school.
Participation in extracurricular activities	Children's (age 6-17) involvement in either lessons, clubs, sports, or other activities during the year prior to the survey interview.
Behavioral and emotional problems	All parents were asked to indicate whether the child doesn't get along with other kids, can't concentrate or pay attention for long, or is unhappy, sad, or depressed. Respondents for 6- to 11-year-olds were also asked to indicate whether the child feels worthless or inferior, has been nervous, high-strung, or tense, and acts too young for his or her age. Respondents for 12- to 17-year-olds were also asked whether the child has trouble sleeping, lies or cheats, and does poorly at schoolwork. The possible response categories were often true, sometimes true, or never true. Answers to the six questions were summed to create scores ranging from 6 to 18. A score less than or equal to 12 indicates greater behavioral and emotional problems.
Expulsion or suspension	Adolescents (age 12-17) who had been expelled or suspended one or more times in the year prior to the survey interview.
Skipping school	Adolescents (age 12-17) who had skipped school one or more times during the year prior to the survey interview.
Children's Family Environment	
Children in two-parent families	Children under age 18 who lived with two biological or adoptive parents at the time of the survey.
Children in single-parent families	Children under age 18 who lived with a single biological or adoptive parent at the time of the survey.
Reading and telling stories to young children fewer than 3 days per week	Children age 1 through 5 whose parents reported reading or telling stories to them fewer than 3 days per week.
Children taken on outings	Children age 5 and under whose parents reported taking them on outings such as to the park, the grocery store, a church, or a playground two or three times a month or fewer.
Participation in volunteer activities	Participation of children's (age 0-17) parents in volunteer activities at least a few times a month.
Participation in religious activities	Participation of children's (age 0-17) parents in religious activities at least a few times a month.
Aggravation among parents	Aggravation was assessed using a scale that summed a parent's estimates of how often in the month prior to the survey interview he or she felt the child (age 0-17) was much harder to care for than most, the child did things that really bothered the parent a lot, the parent was giving up more of his or her life to meet the child's needs than expected, and the parent felt angry with the child. Respondents' answers were summed to create scores ranging from 4 to 16. A score less than or equal to 11 indicates high aggravation in parenting.
Poor mental health of parents	Parents of children age 0-17 were asked five questions about how often in the past month they had been a very nervous person, felt calm and peaceful, felt downhearted and blue, been a happy person, and felt so down in the dumps that nothing could cheer them up. The answers to these questions were summed to create a 100-point scale, on which a score of 67 or less indicated poor mental health.

